

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are presently pending in this application. Claims 21-31 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 25, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Hsu (U.S. Patent 6,265,888); Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Buol et al. (U.S. Patent 4,567,432, herein "Buol"); Claims 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hsu in view of Buol; Claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hsu in view of Buol, and further in view of Nowotarski (U.S. Patent 5,071,058); and Claims 1-20 were indicated as allowed.

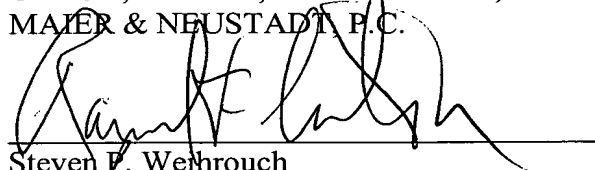
Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of Claims 1-20.

Claims 25-31 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by this amendment, thereby obviating the rejections summarized above. Further, non-elected withdrawn Claims 21-24 have also been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by this amendment.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for formal allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Steven F. Wehrhouch
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 32,829

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Raymond F. Cardillo, Jr.
Registration No. 40,440

SPW/RFC/GS:mda
I:\ATTY\GS\25S\251152\AME_FILED.DOC